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CLASSIFICATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 25 October 1951

SUBJECT Fortifications on Islands off the Dalmatian Coast

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DO NOT CIRCULATE

## Island of Zirje

1. An unspecified number of plaster buildings with cement roofs have been constructed recently in the northern part of this island, in the Smrekova area.

## Island of Murter

2. A large masonry structure with a cement roof has been constructed near the small church in the valley of San Nicolo. The longer side of the building, believed to be a storehouse, is along the shore. Tarred planks have been placed on part of the roof.
3. The following fortifications are located on the western shore of the island:
  - a. An old building equipped with reflectors used for semaphore.
  - b. Two small buildings, on one of which are two rods with radio antennas.

The building which contains the semaphore equipment and the two small buildings are surrounded by a barbed wire fence.

4. The western slope of the island is composed of a rocky wall. Immediately beyond the summit of the vertical wall, below the semaphore apparatus, are two rectangular embrasures with walls of reinforced concrete. In the center of each of these embrasures is a naval gun of more than 203 mm. caliber. The barrels of these guns project from a circular metal emplacement which is as high as, but narrower than, the embrasure.
5. Below the two embrasures, in a central position, on a level with the slope wall is a reinforced concrete bunker. There is also an embrasure of the observation type. These embrasures swerve away from the line of the wall toward the north.

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6. On the southern slope of the island is a mule road which extends as far as the semaphore apparatus. An anti-aircraft battery, composed of an unspecified number of small guns of approximately 40 mm. caliber, is situated at a point where this road curves toward the northwest. The battery is partially hidden by trees and is visible only from the south. Source claims to have passed wittingly within approximately 200 meters of the battery.

Stari Zadar

7. A tree-lined road starts at the edge of the coast and follows the coastline toward the interior of the town. Immediately outside the town the road rises up into a low hill. On the left, near the summit of the hill, away from the sea, is a small power station, which is painted yellow. Electrical cables from this station are connected with electrical wires from a pole situated approximately 600 meters from the shore and parallel to it. A row of electrical poles lead from the power station which serves as a feeding station for the entire town.

Island of Smokvica

8. On the eastern slope of the central valley on this island there are an unspecified number of buildings. South of these buildings is a small tree-shaded beach. Many tons of iron sheets and other construction materials can be seen under the trees.
9. On 18 June 1951, at 1:30 p.m., approximately 200 soldiers were observed on this beach enjoying their recreation hour. The motor boat on which the source was travelling passed within 20 meters of a boat, at the oars of which he observed 8 prisoners with shaved heads, and at the helm of which he noted a soldier wearing a jacket with the insignia of the coastal artillery. On the shore close to the center of the island were several soldiers unloading unidentified objects from trucks. The unloaded objects were lowered into an embankment located at that point.
10. As the motor boat on which the source travelled passed toward the southern tip of the island, several explosions were heard. Source believes that excavation work is in progress in the area.
11. On the rocky shore which dominates the southern portion of the island is a circular masonry emplacement. An anti-aircraft gun of less than 90 mm. caliber projects from this emplacement. This gun is always maintained in an upright position. East of this emplacement is another circular masonry emplacement without any weapon. West of the previously mentioned emplacement is a naval battery composed of the following pieces:
- a. 4 field pieces of medium caliber bolted onto a platform close to the shore and covered with white tarpaulin.
  - b. 2 modern type guns of approximately 200 mm. caliber mounted on 4-wheeled carriages, situated close to the shore behind some trees.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. these weapons were fixed securely and the two gun stocks were raised. As the motor boat on which the source was travelling rounded the southern tip of the island, the soldiers lowered the guns to a horizontal position. When the weapon is in a horizontal position, the top of the breach of the gun is higher than a man of more than average height.

12. A long building with a cement roof is located near the area in which the previously mentioned battery and guns were observed.
13. The mail packet Dalmatia was observed approaching the Island of Smokvica from Split by source.

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Comment: For additional recent disseminations concerning fortifications and installations on Yugoslav islands off the coast of Dalmatia, your attention is called to:

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Comment: Photographs of the islands of Smokvica and Vis are available in the CIA Library on request.